

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1 and 8 are requested to be canceled.

Claims 3, 5, 6, 9, 12, 14 and 15 are currently being amended.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 3-7 and 9-20 are now pending in this application.

In the November 17, 2006 Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,566,915 (Hansare). Claims 1 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,077,373 (Hoebener et al). However, the Examiner indicated that claims 5-7 and 9-13 were allowable over the prior art, but were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 16-20 were allowed.

In order to advance the prosecution of the present application, and in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, Applicant has cancelled claims 1 and 8. Objected-to claims 5, 6, 9 and 12 and 15 have been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the previously-presented rejected base claims. Lastly, claims 3 and 14 were amended to be dependent upon allowable claims 5 and 9, respectively.

In making the above amendments, Applicant is not taking a position as to the Examiner's interpretation of the claims and the prior art at issue. As such, Applicant fully reserves the right to continue pursuing the rejected claims in a subsequent continuation application. In the event

that the Examiner has any questions concerning this issue, she is encouraged to contact the Attorney for Applicant at her earliest convenience.

Because each of claims 3-7 and 9-15 are in a form indicated to be allowable by the Examiner, or are dependent upon such an allowable claim, Applicant submits that each of these claims is now in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1450. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1450. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1450.

Respectfully submitted,

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